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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/535,531 | 06/02/2006 | Richard Henry Schlosberg | 2002M179 | 1619 |
| 23455 | 7590 | 12/19/2008 | | |
| EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL COMPANY | | | EXAMINER | |
| 5200 BAYWAY DRIVE | | | PUTTLITZ, KARL J | |
| P.O. BOX 2149 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| BAYTOWN, TX 77522-2149 | | | 1621 | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 12/19/2008 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/535,531 | SCHLOSBERG ET AL. |
| | Examiner KARL J. PUTTLITZ | Art Unit 1621 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 53-60,62-68,70-96,99-101,107 and 108 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 53-60,62-68,70-96,99-101,107 and 108 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The prior art rejections are withdrawn in view of the following new ground of rejection, necessitated by applicant's amendments:

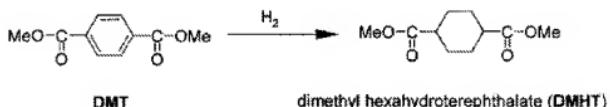
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 53-60, 62-68, 70-96, 99-101, 107 and 108 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raia in view of Brunner.

Raja teaches the following reaction:



The catalyst is a Group VIII metal disposed on a mesoporous silica support, see page 4641, left column, bottom. The claimed metal dispersions are deemed to be necessarily possessed by the disclosed catalyst given the amounts of metals used in the catalyst preparation.

The rejected claims also cover those embodiments wherein the support is a mixed oxide and mixed pore size, physical properties of the catalyst, and hydrogenation

of different benzenecarboxylic acid derivatives. Raja fails to explicitly teach these embodiments. However, it is for this proposition that the examiner joins Brunner. In this regard, Brunner teaches hydrogenation of benzene polycarboxylic acids, and specifically teaches mixed oxides of different pore structures, see description bridging columns 2 and 3.

With regard to the physical properties of the catalyst, Raja substantially teaches the claimed catalyst, and therefore, any physical characteristics are necessarily possessed by the disclosed catalysts.

With regard to the specific benzenecarboxylic acid derivatives, hydrogenation of the claimed derivatived would be within the purview of those of ordinary skill, based on the success of the disclosed catalysts in the hydrogenation reaction.

Therefore, the claimed mixed oxide and mixed pore size, physical properties of the catalyst, and hydrogenation of different benzenecarboxylic acid derivatives are *prima facie* obvious in view of the combination of Raja and Brunnersince these references teach or suggest these embodiments.

Applicant argues that Brunner fail to teach the instant mesoporous material. However, give the description in Brunner, including the example, mesoporous silica is *prima facie* obvious.

Upon further consideration and, notwithstanding applicant's remarks, Brunner teaches a single metal (i.e., Ru) catalyst.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl J. Puttlitz whose telephone number is (571) 272-0645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Sullivan, can be reached at telephone number (571) 272-0779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Karl J. Puttlitz/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1621